

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /061 W

-----085541 211048Z /10

R 201747Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9051

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO J2 QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 587

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJECT: REPORT OF PAZ ESTENSSORO SUPPORT FOR HERNAN SILES

ZUAZO PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

1. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PRESS REPORTS HERE THAT EX-BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO HAS AGREED OR WILL AGREE TO SUPOORT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO AS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN THE UPCOMING BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS. SOME OF THIS BASED ON STATEMENTS BY GUILLERMO BEDREGAL, WHO SAYS HE VISITED PAZ IN EARLY JANUARY AND PAZ INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT SILES. ALSO, THE LEADER OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY PAZ TO ATTEMPT TO UNIFY THE MNR PARTY, FATHER LEONIDAS SANCHEZ, HAS BEEN QUOTED WIDELY AS STATING THAT HIS FACTION OF THE MNR, WITH THE IMPLICIT SUPPORT OF VICTOR PAZ, IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH SILES' MNRI PARTY IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS EDWIN TAPIA AND JAVIER ARCE, WHO WILL PROBABLY RESIGN SHORTLY TO WORK ON THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF GENERAL JUAN PEREDA, HAVE ADVISED US THAT THE GOB IS IN CONTACT WITH VICTOR PAZ THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY AND HOPES THAT PAZ WILL EITHER SUPPORT PEREDA'S CAMPAIGN OR AT LEAST NOT COME OUT IN OPPOSITION TO PEREDA. THESE OFFICIALS STATED THAT

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PAZ IS INTERESTED IN BEING SELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNGA IN 1978 WHEN, ACCORDING TO THEM, THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WILL SELECT THIS POSITION. THEY HOPE TO BARGAIN THIS FOR PAZ' SUUPORT.

3. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORTS OF SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WITH VICTOR PAZ, WHICH INDICATED THAT PAZ FOR PERSONAL REASONS COULD NOT SUPPORT A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN BY HERNAN SILES. THE EMBASSY WOULD

APPREICATE THE DEPARTMENT IN AN APPROPRIATE FASHION ASCERTAING
FROM PAZ WHETHER IN FACT HE HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS (TO
BEDREGAL OR TO ANYONE ELSE) TO SUPPORT A SILES CANDIDACY AS
WELL AS PAZ' CURRENT VIEWS ON THE PEREDA CANDIDACY. WE WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN DEPARTMENT'S AND PAZ' VIEWS ON HIS INTEREST IN
THE UNGA PRESIDENCY AND WHETHER IN FACT THERE WOULD BE A CHANCE
OF HIS BEING SELECTED FOR THIS POSITION.
BOEKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAPAZ00587
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0784
Format: TEL
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780141/aaaabifs.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3742034
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF PAZ ESTENSSORO SUPPORT FOR HERNAN SILES ZUAZO PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PINT, BL, (PAZ ESTENSSORO, VICTOR), (SILES ZUAZO, HERNAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c422c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014